



Message of the Week

March 19-25, 2003

Presented by Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN)

“Only Saddam Hussein can stop the war.”

- The coming military action in Iraq is **a war of Saddam Hussein's own making**. For 12 years, he has been given every opportunity to take the route of peace. Instead, he has:
 - *repeatedly defied the demands of the international community after his troops were expelled from Kuwait;*
 - *rebuilt his chemical and biological weapons programs;*
 - *worked to acquire components for nuclear weapons;*
 - *colluded with international terrorists;*
 - *slaughtered his own people by the thousands; and*
 - *routinely attacked U.S. and British military jets.*
- Despite this record, the international community has given Saddam **more opportunities to avoid war**: all he had to do to avoid war was give up his weapons of mass destruction. He refused.
- President Bush outlined **a clear end to the 12-year war with Saddam Hussein**: Saddam and his sons must go into exile. Saddam, already guilty of the charges brought against him, again has a chance to keep the peace. Instead he is apparently choosing to continue his string of lies and deceit. If war breaks out, it will be a war that Saddam Hussein chose, not the U.S.
- Unfortunately, some permanent members of the UN Security Council have publicly announced they will veto any resolution that compels the disarmament of Iraq. These governments share America's assessment of the danger but not our resolve to meet it. We salute the **broad coalition of more than 30 countries** that is now gathering to enforce the just demands of the world. The UN has not lived up to its responsibilities, so America will rise to hers.
- The past 12 years—and the history of the 20th Century—have shown us that **no amount of diplomacy can stop a dictator** with such disregard for international agreements and contempt for human life.
- Make no mistake: if Saddam chooses war, **America will prevail**. America will liberate the Iraqi people, uncover and destroy his weapons of mass destruction, and otherwise squash a leading threat to America, its allies, and international stability.
- Now is the time to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with President Bush. As our armed forces are put in harm's way, it is important that Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle **put politics aside and support our Commander-in-Chief**.